

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/600,280  
Amendment Dated June 29, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of Jan. 3, 2005  
Docket No. 7505-1

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A decontamination device for decontaminating medical apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

~~a dispenser within the housing for contacting a portion of said medical apparatus with a decontaminating compound when said portion of said medical apparatus is placed within said housing; and~~

an absorbent pad carrying a decontaminating compound placed within said housing; and

structure for removably engaging said housing to a portion of said medical apparatus, whereby said absorbent pad is placed into contact with said portion of said medical apparatus upon engagement and removed from contact upon disengagement.

2. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said structure for removably engaging said housing to said medical apparatus comprises interlocking structure for engaging a portion of said medical apparatus.

3. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 2, wherein said interlocking structure comprises at least one elastically deformable, inwardly directed protrusion on said housing.

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4. (Currently Amended) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said dispenser housing comprises [[an]] absorbent pad material having absorbed therein said decontaminating compound a flexible portion to facilitate the removable engagement to said medical instrumentation.
5. (Currently Amended) The decontamination device of claim 1, further comprising additional means structure for attaching said decontamination device housing to said medical apparatus ~~when said medical apparatus is in use~~.
6. (Currently Amended) The decontamination device of claim 5, wherein said attachment structure additional means is a lanyard.
7. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, further comprising a removable cover for said housing.
8. (Currently Amended) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein at least two of said decontamination devices housings are detachably engaged.
9. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises indicia providing information concerning said decontamination device.
10. (Currently Amended) The decontamination device of claim 9, wherein said indicia comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of color, printed material, bar code, and embossed material.

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11. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 9, wherein said indicia comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of the decontaminating compound and the medical apparatus for which the decontamination device is intended.
12. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound comprises a disinfecting compound and a sterilizing compound.
13. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of glutaraldehydes.
14. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of chlorine compounds.
15. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of alcohols.
16. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of iodophors.
17. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of peroxygen compounds.

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18. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of phenolics.

19. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium compounds.

20. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said dispenser contains an indicator compound for indicating that the medical apparatus has been contacted by said decontaminating compound.

21. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said housing is dimensioned to receive the head of a stethoscope.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for using medical apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing a decontamination device comprising a housing, a dispenser within said housing for contacting a portion of said medical apparatus with a decontaminating compound when said portion of said medical apparatus is placed within said housing, and structure for removably engaging said housing to said medical apparatus;

placing a portion of said medical apparatus in said housing, thereby contacting said portion with said dispenser and said decontaminating compound;

removing the portion of said medical apparatus from said housing;

using the medical apparatus in furtherance of medical procedures; [[and]]

replacing the portion of the medical apparatus in the housing of the decontamination device and engaging the housing to the medical apparatus using said,

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engagement structure, whereby said portion of said medical apparatus is again decontaminated; and

engaging said decontamination device with said medical apparatus during the decontamination step and the medical use step.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said decontaminating compound is comprised of at least one of a sterilizing compound and a disinfecting compound.

24. (New) The decontamination device of claim 4 wherein said housing further comprises an inwardly directed protrusion to which when combined with the flexible portion causes an interlock of the housing with the portion of said medical apparatus.

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